

9-1-2009

## VRC News, Fall, 2009; Issue Two

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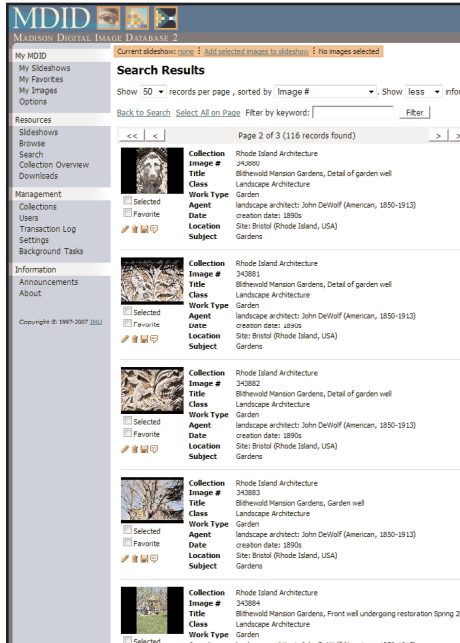
Strasbaugh, Chris, "VRC News, Fall, 2009; Issue Two" (2009). *RWU VRC News*. Paper 2.  
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# Updates on upgrades

*Chris Strasbaugh, Visual Resources Curator*



*View of MDID*

This summer the VRC set out to implement many important upgrades behind the scenes to improve what you see. Plans to upgrade to a possible new version of MDID were mentioned in the previous newsletter, as were plans to bring the Archivision collection of 40,000+ images into MDID. If you were to hop on MDID right now, you would quickly notice that we decided to stay with MDID2 instead of moving to MDID3 because the new upgrade was not ready to host a full

collection. However, you will notice a few big changes in MDID over the next few weeks.

The first major addition is the Archivision collection, which has been uploaded. Currently it hosts over 6,000 images but will expand to 40,000 images over the next couple of months. Also, the appearance of MDID will change to show our university's branding. Beyond these items that you can easily see, we made many changes on our end to make things much faster and better overall.

## A Fresh New Look for our Webpage

We have completely overhauled the webpage to not just provide the links to MDID and ARTstor, but also to provide information about how to use images, copyright concerns, and more. The page is much more interactive and organized, featuring a tabbed layout, (such as seen in your internet browser), continuous updates from our blog, tutorial videos and various on-click surveys to help us provide better service. This webpage will hopefully provide faculty with the services needed and provide students the look they desire and the information they need.



# A Better Way to Build Your Presentations

While having a laptop to work on is very convenient, it does become problematic when you are trying to create presentations and the thumbnails are so small that you can barely see them. To make things easier when building those image-based presentations, we have setup a workstation in the slide library complete with a large 24" monitor. Our VRC stu-

dent workers share the workstation, but faculty has priority. Also, while the slide library closes at 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, faculty members can always come in to work. Stop by the architecture library's circulation desk and they will let you in. Hopefully this improved workspace will make creating presentations faster and easier.

## In-Classroom Instruction to Help Your Students

If you are interested in having me introduce your students to the images resources available to them and how to properly use them, please contact me to setup a date for classroom instruction.

## Tutorials = 24/7 Helpline

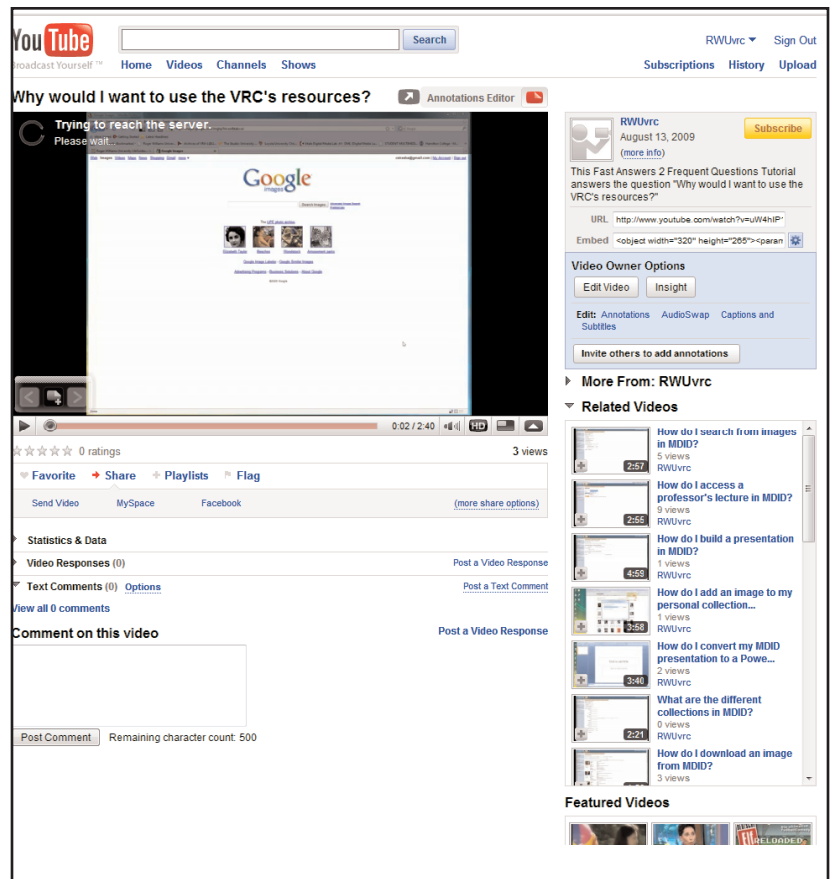
With this large quantity of resources available at your fingertips at all times more questions arise about how to use those resources. Unfortunately, questions cannot always wait for the VRC open. Now you will never be far from answers with the addition to a growing number of short video tutorials that answer those frequently asked questions. You can easily find the videos either on our webpage or on our YouTube channel.

## Friendly Reminder of the Backlog Slides

As this semester is upon us, I want to remind all of you about the remaining backlog of unaccessioned slides that have been living in a slide cabinet for years. If you are

interested in the future of any of these slides, please stop by and take a look through the cabinets in the VRC hallway. I have set out instructions and slide boxes to put any images that you are interested in. I will be moving the

images to storage in January and wanted to give you opportunity to add to our collection any images you find that would be beneficial. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.



*The VRC's YouTube channel.*